



This issue of the Electronic News Sheet is for **anyone** who would like to be updated on GCS activities and progress. If this is the first issue you have received and you would like future issues, please send an email to: [membership@granthamcanal.org](mailto:membership@granthamcanal.org) stating your name, confirming your e-mail address and indicating that you wish to receive the News Sheet. Future copies will not be sent without your permission.

You do not have to be a member but please consider joining. Details on "The Society" page on our website: [www.granthamcanal.org](http://www.granthamcanal.org)

## 1. GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE.



Supported by

**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



There have been some major positive developments following the extra efforts being made by CRT to ensure the success of the stage two bid, which is to be submitted. The HLF have also been extremely helpful and supportive and have asked for the bid to have a higher Volunteer input and not rely solely on outside contractors. This has been welcomed by GCS and it is hoped that the bid to restore locks 12 to 15 will be successful. We should know something in the next few months. Keep everything crossed and we will let you know, as soon as we have some news. (*John Brydon*).

## 2. WHAT ABOUT ME?

We forgot to mention another of our Passed Skippers. Dave Morretti has also obtained his RYA Practical Inland Waterway Helmsman Certificate and joins those of us who are able to skipper Centauri and The Three Shires. Well done Dave.

## 3. MORE TRAINED SKIPPERS

March saw another six GCS members obtaining their Helmsman Certificates. Congratulations go to John Robinson, Mike Wiggins, Mark Hubbard, Joe Cutler, David Booth and Owen Rushby.

That makes a grand total of fourteen skippers in the Society. Brilliant! Well done everyone.

(*Wonder if CRT have any more boats they don't want! Ed.*)

## 4. BOAT FOR SALE

Several years ago GCRS as it was then, was given a 'Yorkshire Pebble' cabin boat (pictured right) for use on the canal. We called her 'The Grantham Restorer'- Workboat No 18. This was the only boat we possessed but we were not allowed on the canal so although we did take her on the River Trent once it became obvious that she was not a practical solution as a Workboat. So after a bit of tlc we have reluctantly decided to sell her and use the money raised elsewhere. She is of GRP construction with original fixed Cuddy Cabin top and comes complete with a road trailer. Please note that there is no outboard engine included. We are hoping to raise in the region of £1000 ono. Details 07831 629 196



## 5. AMANDA MORGAN - Canal & River Trust

Our thanks and good wishes to Amanda who was deeply involved with GCS in the 12 months or so that she was Volunteer Leader and then Coordinator. We were sorry to lose her but delighted to hear that she is enjoying her time working with the Technical Teams. Ed.



## 6. IWA NOTTS & DERBY BRANCH



The Inland  
**Waterways**  
Association

Campaigning for the use, maintenance, and  
restoration of Britain's inland waterways

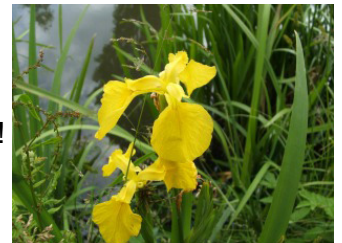
Further information about meetings can be obtained from their website [www.waterways.org.uk](http://www.waterways.org.uk)

## 7. THE THREE SHIRES Trip Boat



The Three Shires has had her winter spruce up and is ready for another busy season of public trips. As you will have just read we now have plenty of trained crews to allow us to run trips for nearly all occasions. We have had some very complementary letters thanking us for making special trips so memorable. So if you have a special occasion that you would like to celebrate or maybe surprise someone dear to you with a trip on the Canal, please give a call to **01949 850999**

It's not an orchid, not even a Lilly! It's a Yellow Iris, often called Flag or Yellow Flag. (Of course I knew that!) Thanks to Chris and also Tony for correcting me, yet again!  
Ed



## 8. DONATIONS

Our thanks to the following for their generous support  
It is very much appreciated. If your name is not here and it should be, please let me know. Ed

T.M.Shaw

D.Roper

R.C. & J.E. Haynes

Mrs Altham

Parnell Phil - Cropwell Bishop Concert

Some of our own workparty members have also made generous donations to help purchase pieces of equipment which help us to be more efficient.



**W**ay back in the month of May last year, the Vale of Belvoir Machinery Group held a tractor road run – their first! The route of this inaugural event took them from the canal, to the canal and back to the canal – which rather sounds like they didn't go anywhere! The assembled group left their headquarters at Canal Farm on the outskirts of

Harby, driving an interesting variety of vintage tractors - what a sight they must have been! A delightfully circuitous route was taken along the byways of the vale to arrive at Hickling for their halfway stop.

The grounds around fabulous late 18th century canal warehouse, situated alongside the restored basin, provided the group with ideal off road parking. Whilst the participants made good use of the adjacent hostelry – an interested public could view these fascinating machines of a bygone age – and no doubt admire the skill and tenacity which goes into restoring them for posterity.

The Plough Inn, noted for its good food and friendly atmosphere, soon had the inner man satisfied with their homemade pie & mash, in readiness for the return journey on a rather chilly springtime day.



Dave Carnell from Lincolnshire IWA presents a cheque for £2000 to Mike Stone at Woolsthorpe to help fund the replacement bottom gates on Lock 18.



## 8. DONATIONS (Continued)

Now there's a good reason for writing about vintage tractors in our newsletter – The Vale of Belvoir Machinery Group donated £90.00 from the proceeds of their road run, to the society! It also came at a time when we all had our hands down the back of our sofas trying to scrape the money together for the new bottom gates on Woolsthorpe Top Lock!

This was a magnanimous gesture on behalf of the group – as I'm sure they could have made good use of the money themselves – **THANK YOU!**

Further information about the group, visit: [www.vobmg.co.uk](http://www.vobmg.co.uk)

And if homemade pie, or something else from their excellent menu sounds good:

[www.theploughinnhickling.co.uk](http://www.theploughinnhickling.co.uk)

**Tony Jackson**



## 9. LLOYDS BANK COMMUNITY FUND



The Society was chosen as a recipient by votes of customers of Lloyds Bank branches at Arnold and Grantham and also by an internet vote and is one of many awarded thought England. The award is to be used to support training of GCS members who are canal volunteers – particularly younger volunteers – in the restoration work involved with the Grantham Canal Society.

Mike Stone said "The society is honoured to receive this award and is delighted to have a strong relationship with an organisation that works closely with the local community".

## 10. GRANTHAM ROTARY CLUB SWIMATHON



On Friday 28th July 2013, Mary Noble and Mike Wiggins were invited to Kesteven Girls Grammar School by the Grantham Rotary Club where they received a very welcome cheque for £500 on behalf of GCS. Our thanks and congratulations to the 1524 swimmers who took part in the Grantham Swimathon and the Grantham Rotary Club for organising such a successful event.

## 11. GCS PROMOTIONAL DVD

Many of you will be aware that for the past couple of years VPoint Productions have been filming GCS activities to produce a promotional DVD for us. We were only able to commission the project with the support of **The A.W. Lymm Centenary Foundation** who very generously sponsored the Video.

Our thanks must also go to the VPoint team for their camera skills and relaxed interviewing technique as well as their generosity in the making of the film.



## 11.WORKPARTIES



Lock 12 at Muston.  
12 months growth takes the team all day to tidy up but at least we can see the offside wall again



Workparties have been busy trying to clear the canal ready for the Trip Boat Season fallen trees at Vincent's Bridge. They are much bigger than they look!  
The one on the left took us 5 days to cut up and remove



Since August our workparties have clocked up **2120 hours** on the Canal



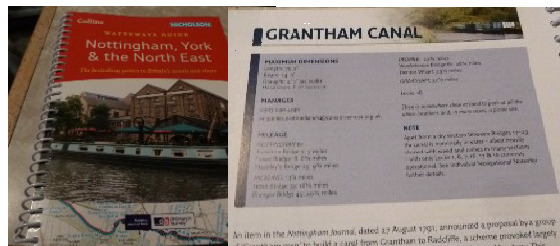
Students from Loughborough at Cropwell Bishop

## 13. GREAT NEWS

For the first time the latest edition of Collin/Nicholson' Waterways Guide for Nottingham York & the North East includes the **Grantham Canal!**

There is a 28 page section in the guide's usual style thanks to the efforts of Jonathan Mosse – remember his article in Waterways World?

"I think the GCS, and the canal, will now be on the radar of a much wider audience!" *Mike Stone*



Please let us know if you are happy with the balance of content in 'Bridge' and also if there is anything you wish to be included

*If you spot anything new or unusual on the Grantham, please contact us (with photos if possible).*

*Any questions ? ... we will try to find answers.*

With grateful thanks to all contributors for their photographs & articles.